

of these reels 2-4. Through display windows 5, 6, and 7 formed in the reel display window unit 39, symbols drawn on the reels 2, 3, and 4 are observed, three symbols for each reel. A total of five pay lines are provided on the reel display window unit 39 where three of them are horizontal and two diagonal. Furthermore, below the display windows 5-7, on the right side, an insertion slot 8 is provided through which a player can insert one or more medals serving as gaming media.

[0021] When a player inserts one medal into the medal insertion slot 8 prior to starting a game, one horizontal center pay line L1 is activated as shown in FIG. 2(a). When two medals are inserted, two upper and lower horizontal pay lines L2A and L2B are added thereto, and thus three horizontal pay lines L1, L2A, and L2B are activated as shown in FIG. 2(b). Furthermore, when three medals are inserted, all the five pay lines L1, L2A, L2B, L3A, and L3B are activated as shown in FIG. 2(c). A circle sign shown in FIG. 2 represents a symbol drawn on each reel 2-4.

[0022] On a machine front panel 38 to the left of the display windows 5-7, from the top, there are four chance LEDs (light emitting diodes) 9-12, three game operation indicator lamps 13-15, a deposited number of game medals display unit 16, and a start lamp 17 provided. The chance LEDs 9-12 and the game operation indicator lamps 13-15 are controllably lighted up in accordance with the game status to inform a player of the current game status. The deposited number of game medals display unit 16 is composed of three digits of seven-segment LEDs and displays the number of medals currently credited within the machine. The start lamp 17 is blinked when each reel 2-4 can be actuated.

[0023] On the machine front panel 38 to the right of the display windows 5-7, from the top, there are a bonus count display unit 18, a WIN lamp 19, number of payout medals display unit 20, and an insert lamp 21 provided. The bonus count display unit 18 is composed of three digits of seven-segment LEDs and digitally displays, when a player wins a bonus game, the remaining number of times the player could win the RB game and JAC game described below. The WIN lamp 19 is lighted up when a winning combination of symbols lines up on any activated pay line. The number of payout medals display unit 20 is composed of three digits of seven-segment LEDs and displays the number of medals paid out due to the winning. The insert lamp 21 is lighted up when the insertion slot 8 can accept the insertion of medals.

[0024] The reel display window unit 39 comprises a liquid crystal panel 39d (described below) stacked thereon as an electric display panel. The liquid crystal panel 39d may display various game information and game effect images. Below the left-hand machine front panel 38, there are a cross key 23, an A-button 24, a B-button 25, one-deposited-medal insertion switch 26, two-deposited-medal insertion switch 27, and three-deposited-medal insertion switch 28 provided. The cross key 23 is switched in four directions of up, down, left, and right, and is operated in conjunction with the A-button 24 and B-button 25 for use in selecting information to be displayed on the liquid crystal panel 39d. The deposited-medal insertion switches 26-28 are used in betting one to three medals on one game instead of inserting medals into the medal insertion slot 8 when the deposited number of game medals display unit 16 is displaying the number of credited medals.

[0025] Below the reel display window unit 39, from the left, there are a deposited-medal adjusting switch 29, a start lever 30, and stop buttons 31, 32, and 33 provided. The start lever 30 constitutes game starting means for starting a game. The deposited-medal adjusting switch 29 is used in adjusting the medals credited within the machine. Operation of the start lever 30 causes each reel 2-4 to start rotating simultaneously. The stop buttons 31-33, disposed corresponding to the reels 2-4, respectively, are activated for operation when the rotating of each reel 2-4 reaches a predetermined speed, and stop the rotating of respective reels 2-4 in response to the player's operation. The stop buttons 31-33 constitute variable display stopping means for stopping the rotating display of the reels 2-4.

[0026] A medal receiving tray 34 is provided at the front bottom of the slot machine 1. The medal receiving tray 34 serves to store medals paid out of a medal payout opening 35. At the front top of the slot machine 1, a payout display unit 36 is provided for displaying how many medals will be paid out for winning.

[0027] FIG. 3(a) is a vertical cross-sectional view of the slot machine 1 at the reel display window unit 39, and FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the reel display window unit 39. The reel display window unit 39 constitutes front display means, and is provided in front of the reels 2, 3, and 4 as shown in FIG. 3(a). As shown in FIGS. 4(a)-(i), the reel display window unit 39 comprises, disposed from the front side of the machine, a transparent acrylic plate 39a, a reel glass base 39b, a bezel metal frame 39c, a liquid crystal panel 39d, a liquid crystal holder 39e, a diffusion sheet 39f, a light guiding plate 39g, a rear holder 39h, and an antistatic sheet 39i. The diffusion sheet 39f, light guiding plate 39g, and rear holder 39h are provided with openings 5a, 5b, and 5c forming the display window 5, openings 6a, 6b, and 6c forming the display window 6, and openings 7a, 7b, and 7c forming the display window 7.

[0028] The reel display window unit 39 is mounted on the machine front panel 38 such that, as shown in FIG. 3(a), brackets 39ba provided on the reel glass base 39b and protruding upward and downward are screwed on the rear of the machine front panel 38 with screws 39j, respectively. Note that in FIG. 4(b), each bracket 39ba provided on the reel glass base 39b is not shown.

[0029] At the upper and lower ends of the light guiding plate 39g, a pair of cold-cathode tubes 40a is provided as a light source for the liquid crystal panel 39d. Above and below each window 5c, 6c, 7c of the rear holder 39h on its rear side, another pair of cold-cathode tubes 40b is provided for illuminating symbols drawn on the outer periphery of each reel 2-4.

[0030] The liquid crystal panel 39d is a transparent electric display panel disposed in front of the reels 2-4 and made of ITO or the like through which each reel 2-4 can be seen. The rear side of the periphery of its display unit is held by the liquid crystal holder 39e. The light guiding plate 39g is made of a light transparent resin panel, and has a lens cut formed therein for guiding light emitted from the laterally disposed cold-cathode tubes 40a to the rear side of the liquid crystal display panel 39d. The diffusion sheet 39f is made of a light transparent resin sheet, and constitutes diffusion means for equalizing the light which illuminates the liquid crystal display panel 39d. The liquid crystal holder 39e holding the